

For a long time, the hermeneutical tradition and that of Critical Theory have been considered as antithetical. In the work of Theodor W. Adorno, a key representative of Critical Theory, both traditions coincide. The central thesis of this essay is that the meaning of 'critique' for Adorno can only be fully grasped if it is at the same time understood as an interpretation of social reality. This essay attempts to demonstrate that his critique is fundamentally a disclosing critique. In the light of this thesis, several aspects of Adorno's critique are examined and several problems delineated.

Key words: Adorno, critique, interpretation, Critical Theory, praxis.